

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/RPM FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE OCON
SUBJ: ALEXANDER KARKOS

REF: BELGRADE 1970

1. USDEL PRESS OFFICER RECEIVED NOTE FROM KARKOS MORNING OF 9 MARCH ADVISING THAT HE, ANTONOVYCH, AND LUCKYT HAD BEEN VISITED IN ROOM BY TWO SECURITY OFFICERS. KARKOS WAS TOLD HOLDING PRESS CONFERENCE CONTRARY YUGOSLAV LAW, AND THEY WOULD FACE EXPLUSION IF THEY ATTEMPTED GO THROUGH WITH IT.

2. SHORTLY AFTER RECEIPT OF NOTE, PRESS OFFICER WAS SOUGHT OUT BY PRESS CHIEF OF SECRETARIAT WHO CONFIRMED DETAILS OF VISIT AND EXPRESSED HOPE USDEL COULD INFLUENCE KARKOS AND OTHERS. IN SUBSEQUENT SEPARATE CONVERSATION PRESS OFFICER AGAIN ADVISED KARKOS (WHOM HE MET BY CHANCE IN PRESS CENTER) AND ANTONOVYCH (WHO TELEPHONED PRESS OFFICER), THAT THEIR PRESS CONFERENCE WOULD BREAK YUGOSLAV LAW AND EMBARRASS BOTH YUGOSLAVIA AND THE UNITED STATES, WHERE PRESIDENT TITO PRESENTLY AN HONORED GUEST. BOTH KARKOS AND ANTONOVYCH POLITELY INSISTED THEY WOULD HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED BY SEVERAL YUGOSLAV AND WESTERN JOURNALISTS THAT KARKOS HAD MET WITH ABOUT TEN JOURNALISTS IN BAR OF HOTEL YUGOSLAVIA, WHERE HE MADE FIVE MINUTE STATEMENT ABOUT THE SITUATION OF UKRAINIAN DISSIDENTS, AND EXPRESSED QUIXOTIC VIEW THAT THE UKRAINE SHOULD HAVE SEATON UN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE THEN INVITED JOURNALISTS TO MS. LUCKYT'S ROOM,

WHERE THEY WERE MET BY SECURITY PERSONNEL. LATER PREVAILED UPON JOURNALISTS TO DEPART, AND INFORMED KARKOS, LUCKYT, AND ANTONOVYCH THAT THEY CONFINED TO ROOMS UNTIL 8 P.M. (IT WAS ABOUT 2:30).

4. AT 6:15 P.. PRESS OFFICER WAS TELEPHONED BY MUCH-RELIEVED ANTONOVYCH, WHO REPORTED THAT ALL THREE RELEASED FROM HOTEL ROOMS AT 3 P.M. AND TOLD THEY WERE FREE TO DO AS THEY PLEASED. ALL THREE PLAN DEPART YUGOSLAVIA MARCH 10. IN INTERIM IN ANTONOVYCH'S WORDS "WE'RE NOT GOING TO TALK TO ANYBODY." GOLDBERG

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